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## Second Committee

**Summary record of the 21st meeting**
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*Chairperson*: Ms. Ogwu ..... (Nigeria)
*later*: Mr. Hoppe (Vice-Chairperson) ..... (Germany)

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*The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.*

**Agenda item 51: Globalization and interdependence** (A/C.2/63/4)

**(a) Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence** (A/63/333; A/C.2/63/3)

**(b) International migration and development** (A/63/265 and Corr.1)

**(c) Culture and development**

**(d) Preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of assets of illicit origin and returning such assets, in particular to the countries of origin, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption** (A/63/86 and A/63/88; CAC/COSP/2008/15)

**(e) Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy** (A/63/256)

1. **Mr. Vos** (Director, Development Policy and Analysis Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs) said that the global financial crisis was affecting not only developed economies but also the economies in transition. Commodity prices were falling, the country risk premium on external borrowing had risen and the risk of capital reversals had grown. A recession in Europe and the United States, meanwhile, would hit such economies' export prospects hard. In addition, the crisis illustrated how vulnerable the growth paths of the economies in transition had been. With the rapidly deteriorating global outlook, such economies had increasing fiscal problems, widening current account deficits and weakening financial sectors. To reduce their economic vulnerability, the economies in transition must move away from their current reliance on primary exports and external financing and identify relevant policy options for greater economic diversification into production activities with higher value added.

2. He then introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the integration of the economies in transition into the world economy (A/63/256), paying particular attention to the policy challenges and conclusions set out in chapter V of the report. The recommendations contained in the report would need to be tailored to countries' specific contexts and needs and to build on the social consensus reached in each country in pursuance of sustained high growth rates and higher living standards. The financial crisis had made an already significant challenge even greater. However, the manifest vulnerability of the economies in transition to the whims of world markets made it even more urgent to address economic diversification.

3. **Mr. Seth** (Director, Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination) introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the impact of globalization on the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (A/63/333). The current financial turmoil provided further evidence of the extent to which the world had become interdependent and the need for greater global cooperation. The current climate was one of deep concern and pessimism. Globalization produced booms and busts, the former marked by unequal benefits, the latter by universal pain. Indeed, those who would be hit hardest by the current crisis were unlikely to have ever heard the terms "stock market" and "equity".

4. Events were unfolding so rapidly that many of the recommendations contained in the report and many of the areas of focus on which it was based had already been left behind. No matter what happened, the poor must be insured; one way to do that was to attain the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in all countries. Concerted action within the framework of the United Nations was the only way of ensuring that all voices were heard and that globalization served the betterment of all. The case for energized multilateralism was stronger today than ever before.

5. Lastly, the Committee might wish to consider focusing on a specific aspect of the globalization discourse the following year. The Secretariat stood ready to provide such assistance as was necessary in that regard.

6. **Mr. Guest** (Assistant Director, Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs) introduced the report of the Secretary-General on international migration and development (A/63/265 and Corr.1), paying particular attention to the responses to the set of open-ended questions sent to Member States in March 2008 (chapter III, section B, of the report) and existing cooperation mechanisms on international migration and development (chapter V of the report).

7. **Mr. Majlessi** (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)) introduced the report of the Secretary-General on preventing and combating

corrupt practices and transfer of assets of illicit origin and returning such assets, in particular to the countries of origin, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption (A/63/88).

8. Since June, when the report had been finalized, a further nine States had ratified the Convention. Today, there were 126 parties and 140 signatories to the Convention. The strong and continuing rise in ratifications pointed towards universal adherence and accentuated the Convention's role as the first and only global instrument against corruption.

9. Turning to the self-assessment checklist developed by the Secretariat pursuant to Conference of the States Parties resolution 1/2 (paragraph 6 of the report), he said that to date 73 Member States, including 66 States parties to the Convention, had submitted self-assessment reports. The information provided through the self-assessment checklist was essential to creating knowledge about the steps taken by Member States to implement the Convention. The initial overview provided at the Conference's second session had been refined on the basis of both additional self-assessment reports and supplementary information from States parties. Accurate information was essential in terms of both implementing the Convention and identifying technical assistance needs.

10. As noted in paragraph 9 of the report, the Conference of the States Parties had decided that the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Review of the Implementation of the Convention should prepare terms of reference for a review mechanism for consideration, action and possible adoption by the Conference at its third session and, to that end, had called on States parties and signatory States to submit proposals to the Working Group. Thirty-three States had submitted proposals. To facilitate discussions at the Working Group's second intersessional meeting, held in September 2008, informal consultations had been held in August 2008. The proposals had been organized under provisional headings, thereby producing a consolidated version that had served as a basis for discussions. At the second intersessional meeting itself, the Working Group had begun work on a rolling text of the draft terms of reference, using the consolidated text as a basis. In addition, it had requested the Secretariat to provide a working document using the rolling text as a basis for informal consultations. Those consultations would be held in November 2008, in preparation for the Working Group's next intersessional meeting in December. The pilot project to test methods for reviewing implementation, meanwhile, had entered its second phase and now involved 29 countries from all regions. The Secretariat would report its findings to the Conference at its third session.

11. Asset recovery continued to enjoy high priority in the work of the Conference of the States Parties. As noted in paragraph 12 of the report, the Conference, in its resolution 2/3, had decided that the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery should continue its deliberations on the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of its first intersessional meeting, held in Vienna in August 2007. The Working Group, which had held its second intersessional meeting in September 2008, had thus refined its recommendations, giving high priority to knowledge availability, creation and management; welcoming the Secretariat's progress in developing a comprehensive knowledge management centre; reconfirming the recommendation on developing practical tools for asset recovery; highlighting the importance of efforts to establish a network of contact points for asset recovery for building trust and confidence between requesting and requested States; and stressing the high demand for technical assistance in implementing chapter V of the Convention.

12. He also referred to the self-assessment responses concerning chapter V of the Convention (paragraph 22 of the report), the percentage of States reporting partial compliance or full non-compliance with chapter V that had requested technical assistance (paragraph 26 of the report) and the Stolen Asset Recovery initiative (chapter IV, section B, of the report).

13. Lastly, the undiminished commitment of Member States, timely preparation and constructive dialogue in the Working Groups would all be essential to meeting the challenges and expectations of the third session of the Conference of the States Parties, to be held in Doha in November 2009. The General Assembly could offer invaluable support in that regard by encouraging Member States that had not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Convention and make every effort to implement its provisions and by calling on all States to engage in substantive and constructive dialogue during the preparations for the Conference and work towards consensus-based decisions in the Working Groups. The Assembly might also wish to take account of the fact that, as the number of States parties and the dynamism

of international cooperation for implementation of the Convention rose, expectations of UNODC would also increase exponentially and that, when States parties reached agreement on the terms of reference of the review mechanism, the Secretariat would be expected to perform a high volume of new and complex tasks. The accomplishment of such tasks would be feasible only if Member States provided UNODC with strong support geared towards ensuring that appropriate resources were in place to make the Convention's provisions operational and fully effective.

14. **Mr. González Segura** (Mexico) asked, in light of the fact that the report of the Secretary-General on international migration and development (A/63/265) had been written several months previously, whether any consideration had yet been given to the possible consequences of the global financial crisis on migration issues.

15. *Mr. Hoppe (Germany), Vice-Chairperson, took the Chair.*

16. **Mr. Guest** (Assistant Director, Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs) said that as yet there was only preliminary evidence of the effect of the economic downturn on migratory flows. There was some indication of a reduction in remittances and there were expected to be implications for employment, but there were not yet any definitive data in that regard.

17. **Mr. Hunte** (Antigua and Barbuda), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that it was crucial for the United Nations to drive the international policy debate on globalization. United Nations bodies should be ready to respond to the increased challenges but not lose sight of the opportunities of globalization.

18. The globalization of markets meant that economic meltdowns caused by policy failures in a few developed countries, where decision makers ignored the interests of the vast majority of countries, quickly spread to other markets. Global governance and sound regulatory frameworks were therefore important. The Group of 77 would continue to strive for equitable sharing of the benefits of globalization through strengthened international cooperation.

19. Development issues should be central to the management of globalization to ensure that everybody benefited. Developing countries persistently highlighted the need for policy space and flexibility to respond to the spread of economic crises. Global economic growth was essential to provide the resources necessary to achieve both national and internationally agreed development goals. However, the necessary growth could not be based on unsustainable and unequal non-participatory financial systems.

20. The present economic situation threatened to further widen the gap between developed and developing countries, which was a major obstacle to sustainable development and a cause of concern to the Group of 77 and China. Developing countries were unable to shield their economies and faced daunting challenges, but the onus was on the developed countries, the originators of the crisis, to take corrective action to prevent a deepening global recession.

21. Increasing globalization gave greater importance to the global partnership for development. Lack of progress impeded economic growth and social development and thus the realization of the internationally agreed development goals. Development partners were not living up to their long-standing commitments under Goal 8 of the MDGs.

22. In responding to the challenges of globalization, the international community should be particularly mindful of the special circumstances of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, and be responsive to their national development plans and strategies. Governance reform of international financial and development institutions was urgently needed, particularly in the Bretton Woods institutions, to improve representation of developing countries in decision-making. Lack of such reform undermined the legitimacy of those institutions and perpetuated structural imbalances.

23. The report of the Secretary-General on international migration and development (A/63/265) provided useful information about the ongoing efforts by Governments to include development in regional and interregional mechanisms focusing on international migration, which both affected and was affected by the development process. The effects of international migration on economic and social development highlighted the complex relationship between underdevelopment, poverty, social exclusion and migration. The Group emphasized the very important

contribution made by migrants to the development of destination countries.

24. Turning to the report of the Secretary-General on preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of assets of illicit origin and returning such assets, in particular to the countries of origin, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption (A/63/88), the Group welcomed the outcomes of the first two sessions of the Conference of the States Parties and encouraged parties to implement the initiatives on asset recovery and the provision of technical assistance and capacity-building, particularly in developing countries. Developed countries should cooperate further in addressing the repatriation of money illegally acquired from developing countries to their respective countries of origin. He looked forward to the working groups reaching agreement on the terms of reference of the mechanism to review the implementation of the Convention.

25. In conclusion, both the long-standing and the new challenges of globalization needed to be addressed in a coherent and coordinated manner, in order to achieve sustainable development.

26. **Mr. Delacroix** (France), speaking on behalf of the European Union; the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro; and, in addition, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that the economic crisis, which could hinder the achievement of the MDGs had also highlighted the interdependence of the world economic system and the need for communal efforts to manage globalization in a sustainable way and deal with the new challenges facing the international community.

27. The European Union welcomed the establishment of the Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis. Since the financial crisis might worsen the food crisis, a global partnership on food security should be set up. The European Union was committed to providing support for developing countries in a variety of ways and to playing its part in the implementation of the declaration adopted at the High-Level Conference on World Food Security in June. It had redeployed some of its programmes and was planning to create an ad hoc instrument for rapid response to soaring food prices in developing countries, with a value of up to €1 billion. It was crucial for countries to adopt national policies to encourage the development of agricultural sectors and small local producers.

28. Policies for employment and decent work should also be strengthened, in particular by improving production capacities and creating conditions favourable to economic growth that would create jobs, especially for women. Developing social protection measures required more concerted action by States, and education needed to be improved to provide a better quality, competitive workforce. Universal access to primary education, particularly for girls, was central to policies to combat inequality, and contributed to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals.

29. While the rapid expansion of global trade in natural resources and the increase in global consumption had encouraged growth, they had also caused progressive harm to the environment. Regulations and policies should be put in place to ensure the rational use of natural resources and to guarantee sustainable practices.

30. The European Consensus on Development, adopted in 2005, highlighted the importance of policy coherence among European Union member countries. Greater coherence would contribute to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals.

31. Though there had been strong growth in the economies in transition, as indicated in the report of the Secretary-General on integration of the economies in transition into the world economy (A/63/256), they remained vulnerable owing to their limited diversification of domestic production sectors and high dependence on a few export commodities of low value added content, and would therefore be affected by the global economic slowdown. Those countries should be helped to develop their industrial structures and broaden production. Their integration also depended on foreign direct investment, which should be bolstered, in spite of the financial crisis, so as to accelerate the modernization of technologies. Those countries should make efforts to encourage a stable economic environment in order to facilitate such investment. A better qualified workforce was also crucial, so the European Union encouraged countries in transition to increase spending on higher education, vocational training and continuous skills upgrading. The European Union supported economies in transition through the stabilization and association process and the European

Neighbourhood Policy. It welcomed the discussions held during the inter-ministerial conferences of middle-income countries, particularly the one held in Namibia in August, which had emphasized the importance of taking account of the specific needs of those countries, in particular by supporting their infrastructure.

32. As noted in the report of the Secretary-General on preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of assets of illicit origin, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption (A/63/88), that Convention was the first legally binding instrument on the subject. Its wide ratification and the work of the second session of the Conference of the States Parties illustrated the international community's determination to combat that scourge. The third session of the Conference of the States Parties should adopt a strong and effective review mechanism. The European Union also hoped that a mechanism to facilitate the recovery of assets could rapidly come into force.

33. With regard to the report of the Secretary-General on international migration and development (A/63/265), the link between international migration and development was presently undisputed. Migration presented opportunities for economic growth for everybody; the World Bank estimated that in 2025 migrants would contribute around US$ 772 billion to the growth of world income. Dialogue between countries of origin and countries of destination was imperative to ensure that both could benefit from the positive effects of international migration. He commended the Government of Belgium for having organized the first meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development in 2007, and thanked the Government of the Philippines for its forthcoming hosting of the second meeting. The European Union strongly supported the Forum, as it gave countries the opportunity for dialogue on the issue, and welcomed the cooperation between the Forum and the United Nations.

34. By adopting the European Pact on Immigration and Asylum, European Heads of State had given new impetus to a balanced and concerted migration policy. Mindful of the positive effects of migration for global development, the Pact aimed to allow managed immigration, of benefit to both the country of origin and the country of destination as well as to the migrants themselves. It would promote legal migration, taking into account the needs, priorities and capacities of each member country, and work to combat illegal immigration, while respecting the fundamental rights and dignity of migrants. Above all, the Pact aimed to develop a close partnership with countries of origin, promoting synergies between migration and development. An example of that partnership in action was the second Euro-African Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development, to be held in Paris in November, following up the work of the first Conference, held in Rabat in 2006.

35. Culture and development were inextricably linked: cultural diversity was a driving force for development and a means of achieving a more fulfilling existence. Culture and development also made a crucial contribution to efforts to promote human rights, democracy and peace, all factors essential to achieving the MDGs by 2015. Over the course of the previous decade, UNESCO had developed a holistic approach to demonstrate the key role of culture in socio-economic development, based on a number of international legal principles. The UNDP-Spain MDG Achievement Fund, launched in 2007, contained a section on culture and development managed by UNESCO. The European Union fully supported that initiative, which addressed culture as a pillar of development and a factor of social cohesion and peace.

36. Despite the difficulties involved at a time of severe economic upheavals, achieving the MDGs was vital to ensure that globalization was beneficial to all countries and peoples, so the European Union remained determined to continue its efforts in that regard.

37. **Mrs. Wahab** (Indonesia), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that the concept of globalization and interdependence was under intense scrutiny at a time when all Member States were under serious threat on several fronts. The Secretary-General's report on the impact of globalization on the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (A/63/333), referred to several forces powering globalization, all of which had global economic, social and environmental impacts. The massive two-way financial flows and the mushrooming of cross-border mergers and acquisitions had had far-reaching implications for the real economy, with a dramatic increase in the value of foreign exchange transactions. Economic growth had helped

more countries to gain access to better health and education, and the role of women in development had been enhanced.

38. There were, however, grave problems to be faced, and the mechanisms and institutions put in place had not enhanced the coherence, complementarity and coordination of global economic policymaking. The financial crisis that had engulfed the world was uppermost in most people's minds as economies slowed down and stock markets became more volatile. The international trading system was also under stress, with the failure of the Doha Round, and the global issue of migration also required attention.

39. The fundamentals of the ASEAN member countries' economies remained strong, but the effects of globalization meant that everybody would be adversely affected by the crisis. The asymmetry of the globalized world added to the trouble, with capital, technologies and skills remaining concentrated in advanced industrial countries.

40. The outlook for 2008 had seemed promising for ASEAN. However, as a result of the global financial difficulties in the second half of 2007, the financial intermediation and services sector, which had recorded the second highest growth rate in 2006, had registered a significant decline in investment.

41. ASEAN member countries were determined to face the financial crisis together and would continue to work towards establishing an ASEAN Economic Community by 2015. ASEAN, together with China, Japan and the Republic of Korea had agreed to enable access to an emergency fund in order to defend the region against the current financial crisis. The ASEAN group of countries embraced the concept of trying to reap the benefits of globalization while avoiding its downsides and it was moving towards much closer political and social integration. The recently concluded ASEAN Charter was proof of the group's recognition that there was strength in coordination, cooperation and cohesion in the face of the multidimensional impact of globalization. As one of the oldest regional groupings, ASEAN agreed with the assertion in the report that multilateral solutions, based on a full participation and open dialogue across the international community, remained the best hope for providing a secure economic future for all.

42. **Mr. Muita** (Kenya), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that, in an increasingly globalized world in which the economic benefits were unevenly distributed, African countries were allowed little flexibility in pursuing their national development policies. Africa's contribution to global decision-making and standard-setting was minimal. Nevertheless, crises that originated outside Africa took their harshest toll on the continent and threatened to marginalize it even further.

43. While Africa acknowledged primary responsibility for its own development, global programmes and policies should support its regional and national efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs, and to facilitate an equitable sharing of the benefits of globalization. The Group called for the strengthening of international development cooperation with African countries and the enhancement of the global partnership for development.

44. Like globalization, international migration produced both benefits and challenges for receiving and transit countries, as well as the countries of origin of migrants. Regrettably, there was a perception in the industrialized world that migrants benefited solely their countries of origin. Respect for the human rights of migrants and their dependants was of paramount importance. The African Group supported the ongoing exchange of views at the Global Forum on Migration and Development and trusted that migration and development would once again be a major focus at the United Nations.

45. Africa had many times been the victim of corrupt practices, in which public assets were transferred to banks abroad and subsequently transformed into private possessions. African countries' requests for those assets to be returned to their rightful owners had not always been given due consideration. He therefore welcomed the accession to or ratification of the United Nations Convention against Corruption by a large number of Member States and urged those that had not yet done so to ratify the Convention as quickly as possible.

46. In addition to the Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Corruption, adopted by the African Union, a number of regional economic communities had put in place anti-corruption instruments, thus demonstrating Africa's resolve to combat corruption. Regional and subregional efforts could bear fruit, however, only if they received global support. Finally,

all countries should condemn corruption wherever it occurred; there could be no safe havens for those practising corruption.

47. **Mr. Gonsalves** (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that the benefits and continued credibility of globalization to CARICOM and the developing world depended not on broad statistics suggesting global economic growth, but on tangible improvements in the quality of life and choices available to people. Without a development-centred raison d'être, the CARICOM countries would have difficulty distinguishing between globalization and previous economic offerings by developed countries, which had been clearly exploitative.

48. Globalization and interdependence had generated a number of significant external development challenges for CARICOM that were neither of its making nor within its ability to correct. The rule-based systems that underpinned globalization had made insufficient allowances for the economies of small island developing States and had uprooted their traditional agricultural livelihoods. While those States continued to meet and exceed standards on good governance, open borders and economic liberalization, developed nations repeatedly skirted their trade obligations and reneged on their developmental pledges, to the detriment of small island developing States' collective advancement.

49. The existing rules of the global financial order had placed a glass ceiling on economic growth and developmental progress for CARICOM States. It was as yet unclear whether globalization was a compelling option for such States which, despite misleading per capita averages, retained deep pockets of severe poverty and highly vulnerable economies. Furthermore, although the CARICOM Governments had played no role in the current financial crisis, it would have severe impacts on the region. CARICOM urged donor countries to resist the temptation to curtail official development assistance (ODA) in response to the crisis.

50. It was clear from the Secretary-General's report that the promised benefits of globalization had been neither universally achieved nor uniformly distributed. In many cases, the statistical improvements had been negligible, when weighed against the social upheaval caused by pro-globalization policies. The challenge facing the United Nations was to reconfigure the architecture of globalization to be more people-centred and less preoccupied with globalization for the sake of globalization.

51. CARICOM recognized the important link between migration and other global issues and the fact that all such issues must be considered together for a clear understanding of the challenges involved. Globalization had spawned a creeping cultural homogeneity with a distinct western and mass consumption bias. Indigenous cultures the world over were at risk of being supplanted by a shallow consumer ethic driven by multinational corporations whose sole interest was to create a standardized population of global purchasers. A fundamental cultural bigotry lay just beneath the surface of countless global conflicts. CARICOM stood willing to join all Member States in combating destructive intolerance.

52. While cultures could and should remain diverse, some basic human rights were universal. Chief among them was the sovereign right to peaceful self-determination. There was no one-size-fits-all solution and the right of States to fashion their own solutions could not be impugned. An understanding of and respect for culture and diversity was key to development in a globalized world.

53. **Mr. González Segura** (Mexico), speaking on behalf of the Rio Group, said that, while migration generated benefits for both receiving countries and countries of origin, it also presented a number of challenges. Dialogue and cooperation among all stakeholders was indispensable to ensure the full realization of the benefits of migration through an integral approach. Such an approach should remain people-centred and seek to ensure the rights and dignity of migrants.

54. He welcomed the organization of the Global Forum on Migration and Development as an ideal stage for the discussion of all topics related to international migration and development. The Rio Group was convinced that the Forum derived its legitimacy from its relationship with the United Nations and that it was necessary to maintain a lively exchange of ideas between the Forum and the Organization. He especially welcomed the inclusion of migrants' human rights as a topic at the second session of the Forum, and trusted that it would be included in subsequent sessions as well.

55. He noted with interest the international migration and development activities of the United Nations system and other relevant organizations, as referred to in the Secretary-General's report (A/63/265), and said they were additional proof of the issue's importance and of its close ties to the Organization's mandate. The establishment of an interface should be explored, as there was as yet no forum in which such organizations could share their experiences with Member States.

56. The Committee should remain seized of the topic of migration as part of the follow-up process to the High-level Dialogue on Migration and Development. In addition, the work of the Global Forum on Migration and Development should be considered as a technical platform, governed by the statutes agreed on by the participants, but with a defined link to the Organization. Finally, high-level dialogues on international migration should continue to be held periodically within the framework of the General Assembly, allowing for an in-depth, balanced discussion of the issue. The Rio Group strongly supported the proposal put forward by the President of Guatemala regarding the holding of panel discussions in 2009.

57. **Mr. Sobhan** (Bangladesh) said that it was in the collective interest of Member States to develop a mechanism that maximized the positive impacts of migration and minimized its negative consequences. Bangladesh could hardly over-emphasize the role of migration and remittances in its economic development. Nevertheless, despite full liberalization of goods and capital markets, the integration of labour markets still faced insurmountable challenges. While foreign capital received preferential treatment, foreign labour often faced negative discrimination; such a double standard was unacceptable. He urged the international community to take expeditious measures for the liberalization of markets in order to facilitate the movement of service providers under mode 4 of the General Agreement on Trade in Services.

58. Migrant workers bore the costs of their migration. In recent years, the benefits of migration had become less attractive owing to higher migration costs and low wages and hazardous conditions abroad. Efforts were needed to ensure fair treatment, decent work and legal recognition of migrant status. Mutually agreed minimum living wages for migrant workers must be set and the integration process of migrants must be simplified.

59. Governments should work with the private sector to facilitate remittance flows, an initiative which had potentially high pay-offs. Host countries must ensure the unhindered transfer of funds to countries of origin with minimal transaction costs. Sending countries should also help migrants use remittances properly and invest back home in productive sectors.

60. Governments must intensify cooperation across borders to insulate migrant workers from the impacts of current crises and countries affected by the global financial crisis should remain open to migrant workers, who could help boost ailing economies. An appropriate follow-up mechanism for the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development was needed within the United Nations system.

61. Turning to agenda item 51 (d), he said that, while corruption adversely affected society as a whole, it disproportionately impacted on the poor and vulnerable. The transfer of illicitly acquired assets abroad had consequences on economic growth, sustainable development and poverty eradication; return of such assets to their country of origin was therefore critically important.

62. As for many developing countries, addressing corruption remained a major challenge for Bangladesh. Nonetheless, the current Government had made the anti-corruption campaign one of its foremost priorities. Further capacity-building of relevant institutions remained essential for the success of the campaign. The Government of Bangladesh had taken measures to bring back illegally transferred money. Despite its sincere efforts, it had not achieved the desired goal, owing to complex procedures and lack of legal expertise. Increased international cooperation, especially mutual legal assistance, was of the utmost importance in that regard.

63. He welcomed the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative jointly launched by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Bank and hoped its implementation would yield concrete results. Asset recovery, a new area of international cooperation, would help countries remedy the worst effects of corruption and would send a strong message that there was no safe haven for the proceeds of corruption.

64. **Mr. Liu** Zhenmin (China) said that to ensure that globalization benefited people of all countries and contributed to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals such as the MDGs, top priority

should be given to preventing the spread of the financial crisis. All concerned must strengthen cooperation and take resolute, responsible and timely measures to stabilize the market, rebuild confidence, curb protectionist tendencies and maintain a normal trade order. That would help restore market vitality and prevent recession. It was also necessary to engage in profound reform to strengthen global economic governance in order to make the international financial regime more adaptable to circumstances and ensure that the relevant rules were fair and effective so as to avoid crises in the future.

65. Since developing countries and poor populations had been hit hardest by the food and energy crises, climate change and the financial downturn, it was vital that the international community fulfilled its assistance commitments. Developed countries should redouble their efforts to help least developed countries and regions, particularly in solving the problems of hunger, medical care and children's education. They should reduce or cancel the debts owed by least developed countries and provide tariff-free treatment to their goods. The problems of inadequate regulation and lax oversight, exposed by the financial crisis, warranted attention, and it was also necessary to address the marginalization of many developing countries and the fact that the rules of competition were neither balanced nor fair. Developing countries must engage fully in international economic policymaking on an equal footing.

66. As regards migration, uneven economic development and disparities were the main reasons behind the problems associated with migration, including illegal immigration, human trafficking and transnational organized crime. Some countries were erecting artificial obstacles to the normal movement of people across borders. To adequately resolve the immigration issue, it was necessary to promote the orderly development of the activities of legal immigrants, while also endeavouring to bridge the wealth gap that existed in the world, and thus remove the root causes of illegal migration. Developed countries and international organizations should provide more assistance to developing countries in terms of capital, trade, technology and human resources to help them achieve sustainable development and improve their capacity for immigration management.

67. Regarding corrupt practices and transfer of illicit assets, mutual support and coordination were needed at the political and technical levels among the countries concerned to block asset transfers across borders and prevent criminals from abusing the judicial procedures of their countries of residence in order to avoid being extradited or repatriated. It was also necessary to explore ways to remove the obstacles caused by the different laws of the requesting and requested States and to reduce instances where assets could not be recovered. To effectively curb corruption, international cooperation was needed in extradition, judicial assistance and asset recovery.

68. **Ms. Osman** (Sudan) said that she hoped that the upcoming second Global Forum on Migration and Development would build on the previous Forum held in 2007 and on the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development held in 2006. Migration not only had economic implications, but also played a role in bringing peoples and civilizations together. Her country's history had been enriched by migrants, whether they had merely passed through on religious pilgrimages or had settled there to become part of the social fabric.

69. The international community needed to address the concerns of migrants, countries of origin, and countries of destination alike. The United Nations and international partners had an important role to play in addressing such factors as poverty, indebtedness, natural disasters and post-conflict disruptions. She noted with concern the increase in xenophobia and the targeting of religious groups on various pretexts, and urged increased efforts to reduce obstacles to movement and social integration. Remittances from migrants abroad had been a major source of hard currency for her country, and her Government had established agencies to address the issues of migrants abroad and their families at home. Her country had recently witnessed a decrease in emigration accompanied by an increase in reverse migration by its own citizens, and was also becoming a destination country for migrants from the South. Her delegation hoped for international assistance in capacity-building to handle that influx.

70. **Mr. Natchiappan** (India) welcomed the recognition in the Secretary-General's report on the impact of globalization (A/63/333) that realization of the MDGs was dependent on the concerted management of the globalization process by the

international community and the strengthening of the global partnership for development. Insufficient attention had been paid to providing protection against the adverse impacts of the enhanced flows of capital, goods and services, technology and people, which globalization only exacerbated, leaving developing countries particularly vulnerable and hindering their development efforts. He stressed the vital need to enhance the policy space for developing countries through flexibilities in international regimes, so that they might choose the right policy tools in the context of their specific development challenges.

71. It was also essential to allow developing countries to pursue counter-cyclical macroeconomic policies and develop strategies to promote inclusive growth and full employment, so as to ensure that economic growth could provide benefits to all. Unfavourable international regimes had prevented developing countries from taking full advantage of globalization in the area of agricultural production, owing to the massive subsidies in developed countries, while the steady reduction in their industrial tariffs had greatly enhanced the risks of the de-industrialization of developing countries. Developing countries also faced unfavourable market access regimes and non-trade barriers. Furthermore, critical technologies in the areas of public health and climate change remained inaccessible and unaffordable for developing countries owing to the intellectual property rights regime.

72. In order for the benefits of globalization to be shared more evenly, a comprehensive restructuring of the international decision-making and norm-setting structures in a time-bound manner was necessary, giving greater participation to developing countries. That process should be overseen by the United Nations.

73. He welcomed the setting up of the Global Forum on Migration and Development and urged developed countries to be more receptive to requests from developing countries for increased access to their markets under mode 4 of the General Agreement on Trade in Services. Irregular migration, as well as trafficking of people, was an issue with serious security implications and requiring concerted global action.

74. **Ms. Ovcharenko** (Russian Federation) said that the discussion of migration in the General Assembly demonstrated the growing understanding of the complex and multifaceted nature of the phenomenon and its connection with social and economic development, population issues and human rights. In addition to United Nations activities encouraging dialogue among interested States in order to enhance the benefits of migration and minimize its adverse consequences, mention should also be made of the valuable statistical data on migration produced by the Organization.

75. The first Global Forum on Migration and Development had provided a solid basis for the exchange of opinions and helped to develop partnerships to address migration issues. The second Forum, in Manila, would be an important step towards developing an international dialogue on migration and development. Regional processes and bilateral cooperation were the most effective formats for international interaction on migration and development. In that regard, the Russian Federation was working with the members of the Commonwealth of Independent States and other regional players such as the Council of Europe and the Eurasian Economic Community.

76. The Russian Federation attached special significance to strengthening cooperation in implementing the United Nations Convention against Corruption, drawing attention in particular to the outcome documents of the second session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention, which were geared towards establishing effective mechanisms for monitoring of implementation, as well as enhanced provision of technical assistance. A decree of the President of the Russian Federation of 19 May 2008 had created a Council to tackle corruption, reporting to the President. The Russian Federation would be bringing its national legislation into line with the Convention against Corruption.

77. **Mr. Benmellouk** (Morocco) said that Morocco had a long history of immigration owing to its proximity to Europe and its historical, cultural and religious affiliations with the African continent and the country's dynamic economy. It had now also become a transit country as well as a host country, particularly for immigrants from sub-Saharan countries. In order to tackle the challenges of migration and take advantage of its opportunities, it was Morocco's policy to reinforce dialogue and cooperation among countries at all levels and manage migration in its global dimension. It was also necessary to invest in human development and in sectors which generated growth

and created jobs, and to set up North-South and South-South partnerships in order to develop policies to tackle criminal networks of migrant trafficking and transnational crime. Morocco's integrated management of migration had helped to significantly reduce illegal immigration from Morocco to Europe and had dismantled a number of migrant trafficking networks. Morocco attached great importance to regional cooperation in addressing the issue of migration. It favoured a balanced approach which took the interests of all other countries and of the migrants themselves into account, as illustrated by its hosting of the Euro-African Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development in 2006.

78. Morocco supported the Secretary-General's recommendations concerning follow-up to the 2006 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and the holding of a regular high-level dialogue on migration and development.

79. **Mr. Mat Isa** (Malaysia) said that the world had yet to find a humane form of globalization which placed development at its heart. Indeed, without a radical change in assumptions, the overall global power architecture and governance structures, globalization would continue to lead to greater income inequalities among and within regions and countries, to more volatile boom-bust cycles, with the rich benefiting disproportionately during good times and the poor suffering during bad times. Furthermore, it would continue to create a globalized elite who had more in common among themselves than with the poor in their own countries, a phenomenon which would significantly damage nation-building in developing countries.

80. The situation must be addressed effectively by ceasing to view globalization purely as an economic phenomenon and regulation as intrinsically bad, and markets as being separate from the society in which they functioned. It was also necessary to establish an objective test for an inclusive form of globalization that benefited the maximum number of people, rather than merely enlarging the area and potential for those with more to make even more.

81. The basic economic logic whereby pro-cyclical policies in economic downturns must be avoided should be extended to the present global economic situation: the developed world must avoid adopting isolationist and protectionist policies. Instead, it must increase ODA and take measures to rapidly integrate the entire developing world into the global economic mainstream, thus enabling the entire developing world, and not just emerging economies, to become engines of global economic growth.

82. Turning to the issue of migration, he said that migrant workers formed a significant share of Malaysia's workforce, and there was consensus in the Malaysian Government and among employers, unions and non-governmental organizations on the need to reduce dependence on foreign workers, to improve the management of such workers and to have clear and more stringent procedures on their entry. The Government had taken various measures to that end, including the promotion of greater participation by women, mechanization and automation.

83. The human rights of migrant workers needed to be promoted and protected in a balanced manner at all stages of the migration chain. In that respect, sending countries needed to ensure that their citizens were guaranteed their right to work. It was also vital that clear contracts should be established prior to workers' departure from sending countries, and that third parties engaged in the labour movement should be held accountable for any breaches. Malaysia fully supported the Global Forum on Migration and Development.

*The meeting rose at 1 p.m.*